

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to Figure 1 for not including the legend –Prior Art–. A replacement sheet that includes the legend –Prior Art—under Figure 1 accompanies this amendment. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 8-11, 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Matsuyama. Claims 1-6, 9, 12-16, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuda. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of Epple. Claims 7 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of Komoriya. Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuyama in view of Shiraishi. Claim 19 also stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of Shiraishi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended to specify that the “refractive index (n) of the medium and the aperture of the refractive lens system are chosen so that beams representing deflection intensity maxima of first order, second order, and third order are collected by the refractive lens system.” As described in paragraphs [0054] and [0055] applicants describe and claim an optical device in which higher order beams are collected by the refractive lens system and therefore can be projected onto substrate. By collecting these higher order beams, the claimed device is able to improve image quality of the projected image.

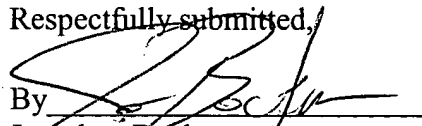
None of the reference cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest choosing the refractive index (n) of a medium and an aperture of the refractive lens system so that the claimed higher order beams are collected by the refractive lens system as claimed. Further, since collecting these higher beams is a function of both the medium and the aperture, this claimed feature would not be inherent to the devices in the cited references. For the foregoing reasons, claims 1 and 20 should be allowed. Claims 2-19, which depend from claim 1, should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Attorney Docket No. 543822001700.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figure 1.

Attachment: Replacement sheet